GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4062
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO ARMY SCHOOL CHILDREN
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India has issued a set of guidelines applicable to all school buses plying in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Army trucks which are used as modified buses to transport school children are exempted from the Supreme Court guidelines;

(c) if so, whether these trucks are safe to carry school children; and

(d) if not, the alternative arrangements made or being made by Indian Army to ferry children in safer mode of transport vehicles?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) & (d): The army trucks are meant to carry troops and stores during operations. During peace time a few of these trucks, with some modifications without hampering their operational preparedness, are used to transport school children. These vehicles are manned by qualified drivers and attendants, who take due care while driving. However, due to an accident, involving one of the modified trucks in Delhi on 20.2.2003, use of modified trucks to carry school children in Delhi has been stopped. Army is now hiring buses from the Delhi Transport Corporation to meet the shortfall in the requirement of buses for carrying children to schools.